

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : Kenichi Kitayama et al.  
FOR : **IMPROVED FRAME STRUCTURE FOR  
VEHICLE TAILGATE**  
SERIAL NO. : Unknown *10/663,138*  
FILED : September 16, 2003  
EXAMINER : Unknown  
ART UNIT : Unknown  
CONFIRMATION NO. : Unknown  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : HONZ 2 00012

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicant(s) submit(s) the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicant(s) is (are) aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with the United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notice dated 05 August 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Applicant(s) has not enclosed copies of the cited U.S. patents with this Disclosure.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

Under § 1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, the enclosed require(s) no further explanation (or no translation is available).

Consideration of the appropriate paragraph(s) indicated below is respectfully requested:

☒ **WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING:** Under § 1.97(b)(1), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION:** Under § 1.97(b)(3), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT:** Under § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FINAL ACTION/WITH FEE:** Under § 1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement. Any overpayment or deficiency can be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **PRIORITY CLAIM:** The attached PTO 1449 Form includes all patents, publications, or other information previously cited by or submitted to the Office in one or more prior applications from which the present application claims priority. These one or more prior applications are identified in the papers accompanying the filing of this

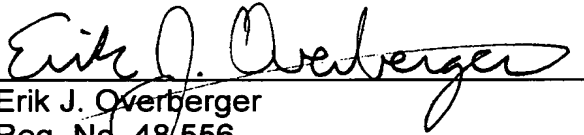
application. In accordance with § 609 MPEP, only copies of art not previously submitted are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the attached document(s) be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

December 15, 2003  
Date

  
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1100 Superior Avenue  
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Cleveland, OH 44114-2518  
216/861-5582

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

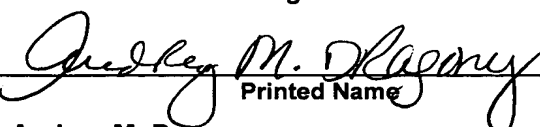
I certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying document(s) are being

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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<b>Express Mail Label No.:</b>
<b>Date</b>
<b>December 15, 2003</b>

<b>Signature</b>

<b>Printed Name</b>
<b>Audrey M. Dragony</b>

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**COMPLETE IF KNOWN****INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT(S)**  
(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Application Number	Unknown
Filing Date	September 16, 2003
First Named Inventor	Kenichi Kitayama et al.
Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket No.	HONZ 2 00012

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document No. Number-Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA	US-1,689,472	10/30/1928	Barrows	
	AB	US-3,184,263	05/18/1965	Plegat	
	AC	US-3,387,406	06/11/1968	Coker et al.	
	AD	US-5,000,503	03/19/1991	Bernatek	
	AE	US-5,169,201	12/08/1992	Gower	
	AF	US-5,372,397	12/13/1994	Arndt	
	AG	US-5,536,060	07/16/1996	Rashid et al.	
	AH	US-5,644,870	07/08/1997	Chen	
	AI	US-5,741,039	04/21/1998	Habdas	
	AJ	US-5,944,373	08/31/1999	Seksaria et al.	
	AK	US-6,079,766	06/27/2000	Butler et al.	
	AL	US-6,227,594	05/08/2001	Pommeret	

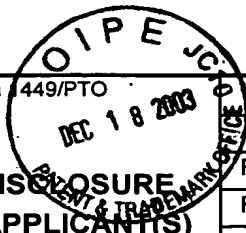
**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
	AM	JP 59-186784	10/23/1984			
	AN					
	AO					
	AP					

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T
	AQ		
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT(S)**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number	Unknown
Filing Date	September 16, 2003
First Named Inventor	Kenichi Kitayama et al.
Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unkonwn
Attorney Docket No.	HONZ 2 00012

Sheet 2 of 2

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document No. Number-Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lin s, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	BA	US-2001/0013710A1	08/16/2001	Pommeret	
	BB	US-6,431,630	08/13/2002	Meinke	
	BC	US-6,471,279	10/29/2002	Pommeret	
	BD	US-			
	BE	US-			
	BF	US-			
	BG	US-			
	BH	US-			
	BI	US-			
	BJ	US-			
	BK	US-			
	BL	US-			

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	BM					
	BN					
	BO					
	BP					

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T
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